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SECOND REPORT

OF THE

BRADFORD CONFERENCE

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

HELD AT BRADFORD, JUNE 7 AND 8, 1851.

ROBERT O. MENZIES, President.
JONATHAN MIDGLEY, } Conference Secs.
WILLIAM BURTON, }

BRADFORD:

PRINTED BY J. M. JOWETT, TYRREL STREET, THORNTON ROAD END.

1851.

TABLE OF THE NUMBERS AND STANDING OF EACH BRANCH IN THE BRADFORD CONFERENCE.

No.	Names of Branches.	Names of Presidents.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Members.	Total.	Baptized.	Received from Branches in the Conference.	Received from Branches out of the Conference.	Removed to Branches in the Conference.	Removed to Branches out of the Conference.	Scattered.	Cut off.	Emigrated.	Dead.	Donations to the Perpetual Emigration Fund.			Amount due for Books to the General Agent.		
																		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	Bradford	Milnes	17	19	19	5	253	313	10	2		3	1		8			1	0	6	9	4	11
2	Leeds	Horton	7	16	8	3	160	194	5	3		2	1		14	1		1	3	10	4	6	1
3	Idle	Watson	3	4	2	1	34	44	7												0	14	8
4	Huddersfield	Day	3	2	2	2	13	22	2	1	1				1								
5	Halifax	Greenlay	4	3	1	1	16	25	5						2			0	4	10	2	5	7
6	Wakefield	Midgley	6	4	2		39	51	1	24	2			1			1				3	12	3
7	Rodley	O'Brien	2	2			3	7				1											
8	Drighlington	Hepworth	1	1			12	14										0	5	0			
9	York	Heaton	2	5			23	30		1	1			10	6		1				1	14	6
10	Tadcaster	Spink	1				3	4				1											
11	Horsforth	Hillam	1	1			4	6				1											
12	Clayton	Child	2		1	1	8	12		1		1									0	8	0
13	Bingley	Lord	2	3	1		8	14		1					2		1	0	3	0	0	11	4½
14	Whitby	Thompson	1				10	11													0	6	0
15	Wilsden	Wade	1	1	1		12	15	1	1		1						0	4	6			
16	Warmfield	Jackson	1	3	1	1	14	20				3						2	3	7			
17	Wheldrake	Beilby	1	1			9	11															
18	Ellerton	Young	1	1	1		17	20	6														
		Total	56	66	39	14	638	813	37	34	4	12	2	11	33	1	3	5	5	3	23	3	4

REPORT.

On Saturday evening, June 7th, 1851, a council meeting was held in the Latter-day Saints' Meeting Room, Butterworth's Buildings, Sun Bridge, Bradford, for the purpose of arranging the business of the Conference to be held on the following day.

The meeting was opened about eight o'clock with prayer by Elder Menzies, Elder Jonathan Midgley was chosen to be clerk, being assisted by Elder William Burton.

A few of the branches were then represented, and other arrangements entered into to facilitate the business of the next day, but in consequence of the absence of a number of the presidents, these arrangements were not as complete as they might have been.

The meeting was closed about half past nine o'clock, with prayer and thanksgiving by Elder Midgley.

On Sunday, the 8th, the Conference meeting was resumed in the before-mentioned room. At half past ten o'clock, a.m. the meeting was opened with singing and prayer by Elder Menzies.

It was proposed by Elder Milnes that Elder Robert O. Menzies preside over this meeting; seconded and carried.

Elder Menzies rose and said, I am happy to see you all this morning, but particularly glad to see those from a distance. I anticipate enjoying myself this day, and I hope you will all enjoy yourselves. I know that this is the feeling that pervades the bosoms of the vast majority of those that have come here to-day. If we do not enjoy ourselves, it will be our own faults, and no one's else. If we wish to enjoy the good spirit of our God to-day, let our hearts be poured out in prayer to God, and we shall be blessed.

We have met together not to consider our personal feelings; we have an object far superior to that. We do not intend to occupy our time in anything so little and mean as self. We have met together to devise such schemes as the wisdom of God may direct for the furtherance of the work of God in this Conference.

There is a vast extent of country within the precincts of this Conference where the Gospel has not yet been preached. If we do not preach it to the people, somebody else must and will do so; and, perhaps, if we in this Conference do not do it, other Conferences will, and thus hem us in, and deprive us of that honour which we might by diligence have wrought out for ourselves. There is scarcely a branch in this Conference where the people have not heard the Gospel preached again and again, till they are tired of hearing it. If the people are not willing to have the Gospel,

we will not compel them to have it, but we will go and preach it elsewhere. The time will come when they will be glad to have it, when there shall be a famine in the land, not of bread, but of the word of the Lord, and they shall run from city to city, and from sea to sea, and shall not be able to find it, for the servants of God shall be taken from their midst. There are many of the principal cities of the United States, America, that would be glad to have a travelling elder to preach among them, and to baptise them, but the privilege in the meantime is denied them.

My feelings are these, brethren, let us go and preach the gospel to those who have not heard it, and spend less time with those who have heard it many times, but will not obey it. Let us extend and fill up that portion of country that the president of the British isles looks upon as our duty to warn and fill up.

I want to make a few remarks on motions. A man may either bless or damn himself by the holding up of his hand. We have got certain views about us which we have obtained from Chartism, or something very like it. We imagine that the holding up of our hands will undo anything, but it is a mistake. When the president of the church issues a mandate, would the holding up of our hands clear us of the responsibility to give heed to it? No, it would not. When they say, "Thus saith the Lord," and a man holds up his hand against that which is spoken, he does it to his own condemnation, but not to the changing of the truth of the thing spoken. We have a right to vote to show whether or not we will uphold and support the authorities of God's kingdom. We have a right to hold up our hands for or against anything. We have a right to vote against anything, in the same sense as a man has a right to tell lies, swear, or murder himself; but a man cannot receive the same amount of blessing by voting *against* that which he should vote for, no matter how sincere he is when he votes. Last Conference I said, when you vote, be determined to carry out that which you vote to do; and to-day I say, if you are not determined to carry out with all your power that which should be done, do not vote at all. If we hold up our hands before God in solemn covenant to do a thing, will God smile upon us, will God give us his spirit if we do not do it, or if we do not use our best endeavours to do it? The branch that does this cannot expect to be blessed. No, that branch will not be blessed, but the spirit of the devil will get amongst its officers and members. If you are not resolved to do a thing, keep down your hands, and do not bring upon yourselves greater condemnation, by voting for that which you are not fully resolved to carry into effect.

The measures wished to be carried out last Conference have not been carried out as they might have been, and as they ought to have been. Who do I blame for it? Do I blame the members? No; I blame the presidents of branches. It is their duty to tell the saints what is wanted; it is their duty to infuse the spirit of the matter into them, by showing that they have it within themselves, and the man that cannot walk up to this place is not worthy of the standing of the president of a branch. If the presidents of branches pursue a proper course, all the other officers and members will follow him, or if they do not they will finally fall out of the church.

In the last Conference Report it is stated that the presidents of branches will bring or send to Bradford a Report, containing all the items

mentioned in the note at the end, in sufficient time for a Council meeting to be held in Bradford, at seven o'clock on the Saturday night previous to the Conference, for the purpose of arranging the business of the next day. Last night, when we met in council, we discovered that several of the presidents of the branches were not present, neither had they sent in a report. This being the case, we could not arrange the business of this day as well as we might have done, as well as would have been done, if the notice given had been attended to. I do not believe at all in this way of doing business.

Last Conference it was resolved that the Reports be printed, and that each branch have a proportionate number of them. These reports have not been purchased as they ought to have been. Brother Taylor has many on hand unsold. Somebody is to blame for this, either the branches for not ordering them, or Brother Taylor for not sending a proportionate number of them to each branch. Brother Taylor must send them yet, and the branches must pay for them; it is not right that they should lay on his hands.

Elder Menzies called upon the clerk to read the representation of the branches which were brought or sent to the council on the preceding evening. These being read, the others were represented by the presidents of branches, and recorded afterward. The whole are in the Table of Representations.

The following brethren were called to receive offices :—

Bradford Branch.—Resolved, that John Brough and Thomas Hanson, teacher, receive the office of Priest; that John Lancaster, deacon, Abraham Heslington, Wm. Robinson, jun. Cornelius Tipple, and Andrew Tasker receive the office of teacher; and that Abraham Hanson receive the office of Deacon.

Leeds Branch.—Resolved, that John Barnes, priest, receive the office of elder, and that John Ashman receive the office of Priest.

Hurdersfield Branch.—Resolved, that Henry Deacon, deacon, Joseph Graham and John Wogden receive the office of Priest; that John Sykes, deacon, and Henry Swift receive the office of Teacher, and that Samuel Sykes receive the office of Deacon.

Halifax Branch.—Resolved, that Richard Walker, deacon, receive the office of Teacher, and that Henry Crawshaw receive the office of Deacon.

Wakefield Branch.—Resolved, that James Askew receive the office of Teacher, and that Henry Wyld receive the office of Deacon.

York Branch.—Resolved, that John Wright receive the office of Teacher, and that George Thackeray receive the office of Deacon.

Warmfield Branch.—Resolved, that William Cusworth, priest, receive the office of Elder; that John Mounteer, deacon, receive the office of Priest, and that Ebenezer Womack receive the office of Deacon.

Whelbrake Branch.—Resolved, that John Newsom receive the office of a Teacher.

Ellerton Branch.—Resolved, that James Pexton receive the office of Priest, and that Isaac Sowersby receive the office of Teacher.

The following resolutions were then passed :—

Resolved,—That we uphold and sustain Brigham Young as the First President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world; and Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his Counsellors.

Resolved,—That we sustain Orson Hyde as President, and P. P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin T. Richards as members of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Resolved,—That we sustain Franklin D. Richards as President of the British Isles, and George B. Wallace and Levi Richards as his Councillors.

Resolved,—That we uphold and sustain Robert O. Menzies as the President of this Conference by our faith, prayers, and means.

Resolved,—That the various Presidents, with all the Elders, Priests, Teachers, Deacons, and Members covenant to uphold and sustain each other, and unitedly assist in rolling on the work of God in this Conference by all possible means.

At a little after twelve o'clock the meeting was adjourned by thanksgiving till the afternoon.

AFTERNOON.

At a quarter past two o'clock the meeting was opened by singing. Prayer by Elder Milnes.

Elder Menzies made some remarks expressing his desire that as many of the young men in the Conference as possible do volunteer to go out to labour where there are no saints dwelling; if they were at liberty, and had faith to do so, God would bless them. He also said that if the young men in the Conference would not go out to labour, he would have some labourers from elsewhere. He wished to obtain a good number; he could find labour for a dozen or twenty.

Resolved,—That Elder Midgley continue to preside over the Wakefield Branch, and council with the President of the Warmfield Branch, and labour as much as possible in that region of country.

Resolved,—That Elder Heaton preside over the York Branch, and counsel with the presidents of the Wheldrake and Ellerton branches, and labour as much as possible in that region of country.

Resolved,—That Elder William Burton labour in the region of country about Knaresbro, Spofforth, Tadcaster, &c.

Resolved,—That Henry Hartley, priest, receive the office of Elder, and labour in the region of country about Huddersfield and Halifax.

Elders Menzies and Midgley had thought for some time that it would be wise for the Heath Common and Wakefield branches to be united, believing that by the united labours and means of these branches a greater and more permanent work might be there accomplished, than could possibly be by these branches in a divided state At first the Heath Common branch opposed this measure. Afterwards the saints in that branch discovering their true position, were willing to be united to the Wakefield branch. These branches were united at Wakefield one or two weeks ago.

Resolved,—That this conference sanction the union of the Heath Common and Wakefield branches.

Resolved,—That the saints dwelling in, or near Otley, be organized into a branch, to be called the Otley branch, and that Jonathan Brear, Priest, preside over it under the direction of Elder Michael Watson, President of the Idle branch.

Resolved,—That the saints around Knaresbro' be organized into a branch, to be called the Knaresbro' branch, and that Benjamin Newton, Priest, receive the office of Elder, and preside over it.

Resolved,—That the saints in and about Queen's Head, be called the Queen's Head branch, and that Elder John Noble preside over it.

Elder Menzies then made a few remarks on fasting. I understand, said he, that the Bradford saints cannot fast very well; they fall sick. Well there is no individual under compulsion to keep the fast. There is no branch compelled to do it; but, if the saints will fast with a single eye to the glory of God, I am confident that they can do so; and those who can, and will not manifest by their conduct a spirit like this, they virtually say we will not assist our brethren to roll on the work of God, we will not be one with them, we will not make sacrifices, but my brethren and sisters, we ought to be one in all things, for Jesus says except ye are one ye are not mine. After some of the Presidents of Branches had spoken in favour of the fast being continued, it was

Resolved,—That as a conference we continue to observe the fast day, on the first Sunday in each month, in the way and for the purposes specified in the last conference report.

Resolved,—That the proceeds of the first fast day in this quarter, be applied to the purchasing of tracts for the travelling Elders, and that Elder Milnes, of Bradford, receive this money as before.

Seeing the last quarter's reports had not been purchased as they ought to have been, and seeing that some persons had murmured at the price of them, being 1½d each, he had ministered some rather sharp reproofs upon the littleness of soul that would cause a professed saint to grumble for 1½d. Elder Menzies said that he would not urge them to have the report printed this quarter, neither would he make a proposition for it to be printed. He would like it to be printed if the saints would purchase it as they ought to do. A few of the Presidents of Branches expressed their desire to have it printed, testifying how much they had been pleased and edified with the last one.

Resolved,—That this quarter's report be printed, and that each Branch purchase a proportionate number of them.

The number of officers present was found to be 37 Elders, 32 Priests, 21 Teachers and 9 Deacons.

Elder Bean and Brother Pears had been appointed to audit the books of the General Book and Star Agent, and the books of the Treasurer for the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

The state of the general agent's books was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance due to the office at Liverpool last Quarter ..	45	16	8½
This Quarter	43	17	1
Total	89	13	9½
Paid at the Office	35	0	0
Indebted to the Office	54	13	9½
Paid at different times	35	0	0
Stock on hand	33	7	6
Different Branches	23	3	4½
Old Debts	1	14	10
	93	5	8½

	89	13	9½
Due to John Taylor	3	11	11
The sums received from the various Branches towards the Perpetual Emigration Fund may be found on the table of Representations amounting to	5	5	3
Paid by the Treasurer to the office at Liverpool ..	4	7	3
Cash in hand	0	18	0
	£5	5	3

For a long time the Conference meetings have been held in Bradford. Leeds is a large town, and is more central. He expressed his belief that it would be well for the next Conference meeting to be held in Leeds and the saints from some of the branches would not have so far to travel as formerly. He expressed his desire that the Conference meetings should be held in Bradford and Leeds alternately.

Resolved,—That the next Conference meeting be held in Leeds, on Sunday, Nov. , 1851, and that a Council meeting of the Presidents of Branches and travelling Elders be held in the Latter-day Saints' meeting room, South Market, Leeds, at seven o'clock, p. m., on the Saturday evening previous, to arrange the business of the next day.

Resolved,—That the Conference meetings be held in Bradford and Leeds alternately.

Elder Menzies said, during the last week I have been in London, and while there attended a Special Conference of the Presidents of Conferences, &c. At that Conference one thing was passed which interests every Conference in the British Isles, and ought to interest the saints in this Conference. Elders Woodard and Stenhouse have gone on a mission to Italy. The wives of these brethren need supporting, and ought to be supported, not by one or two Conferences, as they have hitherto been supported, but by every Conference in the British Isles. At that Conference it was resolved, that the Conferences in the British Isles generally contribute a little towards the support of these sisters. I could like the Presidents of Branches to get a little monthly, and send it to some person in Bradford to be forwarded to Liverpool for this purpose.

Resolved,—That Elder Beecroft be the agent to receive the monies for the two sisters.

Three children were then blessed, and two of the brethren were ordained elders. The rest to be ordained in their several branches.

The meeting was adjourned at twenty minutes to five o'clock with thanksgiving by Elder Heaton.

EVENING.

The meeting was opened at half-past six o'clock by singing and prayer.

Addresses were delivered by Elders Heaton, Midgley, and Menzies.

A vote of confidence was taken in John Taylor, general book and Star agent, and in Barker Child and Joseph Beecroft, Secretary and Treasurer for the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

Collections were taken up in the afternoon and evening for the room rent and Elder's Fund.

The meetings were well attended during the day. Peace and union prevailed, and we earnestly hope and pray, and felt then, that a day of greater prosperity and power was about to dawn upon the Bradford Conference than it had hitherto experienced, which may God grant. Amen.

The presidents and office bearers will find what instruction is needed for the regulation of their branches, and disposal of the priesthood under them, &c., in the last report, and those who have in any measure failed to do what is there contained, are entreated to do so as soon as possible.

ROBERT O. MENZIES.

JOWETT, PRINTER, TYRREL STREET, BRADFORD.